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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kyle Hayes

Examiner: Eduardo C. Robert

Serial No. 09/685,708

Group Art Unit: 3926

Filed: 10/10/2000

Date: November 8, 2002

For: "BONE STABILIZATION PLATE WITH A SECURED-LOCKING
MECHANISM CERVICAL FIXATION"

RECEIVED

NOV 19 2002

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Attn: BOX AMENDMENT

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

AMENDMENT "A"

In response to the Office Action dated August 12, 2002, applicant responds as follows in this marked-up version:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT

Amend the abstract as marked (deleting "means of" in line 5 of the abstract)

Q1
A bone plate assembly is provided having a fixation plate held in position in a bone by a plurality of fasteners. The fasteners extend through holes in the bone plate to engage the bone below. Further, the assembly includes a locking plate, which is secured to the fixation plate by [means of] a lock screw or in a further embodiment by a mechanically biased detent extending into a hole in the locking plate. The lock plate can also include a divot, which is shallower than the hole to hold the lock plate in a open position. Further, the locking plate has a dovetailed connection to engage the flanges defining the exterior edges of a channel and the fixation plate. The locking plate, thus, has a sliding connection from a first position where it has at least partial openings corresponding to the openings of the fixation plate for the fasteners, and optionally also for a graft screw. In a second position, the edge of the plate surrounding the opening overlaps the fastener openings so as

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